

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 SAM-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 CIEP-01

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 ARA-06 IO-10 AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3739

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMSSSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ECON, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE REFUGEE SITUATION

REF: STATE 245483

DURING OCTOBER 16 DISCUSSION OF US-EC COORDINATION ON ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL (SEPTTEL), MFA CHIEF EC EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE PENNAROLA SHARED WITH EMBOFF OCTOBER 3 CABLE FROM ITALIAN EMBASSY LISBON DESCRIBING CURRENT REFUGEE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL. SINCE THIS MAY ADD SOMETHING TO CURRENT UNDERSTANDING OF REFUGEE PROBLEM, MAJOR POINTS MADE BY ITALIAN EMBASSY ARE LISTED AS FOLLOWS:

A) NO RELIABLE ESTIMATE OF TOTAL PORTUGUESE SETTLEMENT IN
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ANGOLA AVAILABLE; BUT NUMBER MAY HAVE BEEN OVER 300 THOUSAND.

REFUGEES HAVING LEFT ANGOLA TOTAL ESTIMATED 110-150 THOUSAND, INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE GONE TO OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS GABON, SOUTH AFRICA AND BRAZIL. IF NO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS INTRUDE, ADDITIONAL 150-160 THOUSAND MAY LEAVE ANGOLA PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 11. (COMMENT: EMBOFF NOTED THAT NEW AIRCRAFT FORESEEN REFTTEL MAY SPEED EVACUATION AND AGGRAVATE RE-SETTLEMENT PROBLEM IN CONTINENTAL PORTUGAL. END COMMENT) OF REMAINING 20-30 THOUSAND PORTUGUESE, SOME MAY STAY DEPENDING ON SITUATION IN ANGOLA BUT WILL NOT FORFEIT RIGHT TO RETURN EVENTUALLY TO PORTUGAL.

B) EVENTUALLY, SOME WHO HAVE FLED ANGOLA MAY WISH TO RETURN. NO ESTIMATE OF THIS NUMBER HAD BEEN MADE.

C) ONLY A FEW ANGOLAN REFUGEES HAVE SUFFICIENT MEANS TO LIVE IN PORTUGAL. PROBLEM IS COMPLICATED BY NON-TRANSFERABILITY OF ANGOLAN BANK ACCOUNTS. TOTAL GOP ASSISTANCE SPENDING MODEST -- 200 MILLION DOLLARS FOR RELIEF FLIGHTS AND IMMEDIATE REFUGEE NECESSITIES, SUCH AS MEDICAL ATTENTION, SHELTER, FOOD, ETC. THOSE RETURNING WITH NO RELATIVES IN COUNTRY ARE AIDED FOR ONE WEEK; THOSE WITH RELATIVES FOR 24 HOURS. TRANSPORTATION TO HOME OF RELATIVES PROVIDED. GOP PAYS SMALL STIPEND, REIMBURSES MEDICAL EXPENSES AND PROVIDES SOME ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING BANK LOANS. REFUGEES WITHOUT JOBS RECEIVE UNEM-

PLOYMENT SUBSIDY OF 70 DOLLARS PER MONTH.

D) GOP HAS CONTACTED OTHER COUNTRIES RE POSSIBILITY PLACING ANGOLAN REFUGEES. RESPONSE GENERALLY POSITIVE. BRAZIL HAS ACCEPTED ESTIMATED 80 THOUSAND PORTUGUESE OVER LAST 18 MONTHS (INCLUDING SOME REFUGEES).VOLPE

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